(a) whether the Food Corporation of India is all set to adopt a slew of new practices and procedures to distribute quality foodgrains in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the procedures to be followed by FCI to effectively supply foodgrains in the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that FCI is also thinking of borrowing resources from the market with a guarantee from Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the procedure in vogue, stock of foodgrains are issued to State/UT Governments only after their satisfaction about quality through a Joint Sampling Method.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Food Corporation of India has sought approval for market borrowing of Rs. 5000 crores in stage. The FCI has also requested Government of India to provide guarantee for market borrowings.

Fall in rice stocks

103. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rice stocks are expected to fall to their lowest level in 12 years during the next six months in the country;

(b) if so, whether this is critically below the minimum norm necessary for the country's food security; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that FCI godowns have enough grain to meet buffer stock norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The buffer norms and expected average stocks of rice for the next six months is expected to be as follows:

(in lakh tones)

Date	Expected Stocks	Buffer Norms
Ist July, 04	113.00	100.00
Ist October, 04	70.00	65.00
Ist January, 05	135.00	84.00

(c) The stocks in the Central pool in the FCI godowns are already above the buffer norms.

Decline in calorie consumption

104. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of per-capita calorie consumption in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the per-capita calorie consumption has been on the decline;

(c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of measures Government have taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) As per information available about energy consumption of rural population from surveys of the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) of National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad under Indian Council of Medical Research there is no statistically significant difference in energy consumption.

(d) Government have initiated several measures to improve the nutritional status of the population such as:—

— Increased agricultural production.

— Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.